

REMARKS

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 1-17, 19-27, 29, 30, 36, 37, and 39-47 are allowed. Applicant requests reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks and accompanying amendments. Claims 1-27 and 29-49 were pending. Applicant cancels claims 18, 31-35, 38, 48 and 49 without prejudice or disclaimer and amends claims 5, 14-17, 19, 20, 22-26, 30, 36, 37, 41, 42, and 46 herein. As a result, claims 1-17, 19-27, 29-30, 36, 37, and 39-47 are pending in the instant application.

Claim 48 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as having insufficient antecedent basis for a claim limitation. Applicant cancels claim 48 herein without prejudice or disclaimer, and as such considers this rejection rendered moot. Applicant respectfully requests removal of this rejection.

Claims 18, 31-35, 38, 48, and 49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto et al. (U.S. 2003/0083203) in view of Kimura et al. (U.S. 2004/0142544). Applicant cancels claims 18, 31-35, 38, 48, and 49 herein without prejudice or disclaimer, and as such considers this rejection rendered moot. Applicant respectfully requests removal of this rejection.

Applicant additionally amends claims 5, 14-17, 19, 20, 22-26, 30, 36, 37, 41, 42 and 46 herein to clarify aspects of the claimed invention. Support for these amendments may be found throughout Applicant's specification as filed. These amendments add no new matter.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If, however, the Examiner deems that any issue remains after considering this response, Applicant invites Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney/agent to expedite the prosecution and engage in a joint effort to work out a mutually satisfactory solution.

Respectfully submitted,

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